

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

## **LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claims 1 to 16. (Canceled).

17. (Currently Amended) A fuel injector, comprising:

- a valve-seat surface;
- an actuator that cooperates with the valve-seat surface to form a sealing seat;
- a valve-closure member able to be actuated by the actuator;
- a structure including a spray-discharge orifice; and
- a seal for sealing the fuel injector from a valve mount opening of a cylinder head,

wherein:

- the seal radially surrounds a region of a discharge-side end of the fuel injector,
- at least a first section of the seal rests against the valve mount opening in a sealing manner, and
- via at least an axial partial section that extends only across a portion of the axial length of the seal, the seal is fitted in the region of the discharge-side end of the fuel injector in integral fashion, by at least one of a form-fit and a force-locking,

the first section is prestressed by an initial stress with respect to the wall of the valve mount opening, and

the first section projects outwardly with respect to parts of the seal immediately adjoining the first section, the first section further being permanently elastic, whereby at least a portion of the initial stress is generated.

18. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 17, wherein the seal is fitted by at least one of:

- one of welding and laser welding, and
- one of tamping and pressing.

19. (Currently Amended) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 17, wherein the seal ~~[[s]]~~ [is] made of metal including at least one of ~~reformable~~ deformable steel, V2A steel, a copper alloy, and a brass alloy.

20. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 17, wherein at least a portion of the seal has the form of a sleeve.

21. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 17, wherein the seal is at least partially produced by a reforming operation corresponding to one of deep-drawing and crimping.

Claim 22. (Canceled).

23. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 17, wherein the first section projects at least partially toward an outside compared to adjoining parts of the seal.

24. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 17, wherein the first section is wave-shaped in cross-sectional profile and sealingly rests against the valve mount opening at a plurality of points.

25. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 17, wherein the first section at least one of:

is formed as a partial circle in cross-sectional profile, and  
widens a diameter of the seal toward an outside in the form of a partial circle.

26. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 17, wherein:  
the seal has an at least partially U-shaped cross-sectional profile, and  
an outer side is formed by the first section, and  
an inner side is formed at least partially by the partial section.

27. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 26, wherein a bottom of the U-shaped section is situated one of at a level of a step and at a level of a discharge-remote end of a recessed-diameter region.

28. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 17, wherein:  
the seal extends between a discharge-side region of the fuel injector and the valve mount opening, axially up to a transition region where the valve mount opening goes over into a combustion chamber.

29. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 17, wherein the first section rests at least partially in sealing fashion on a tapering first bearing surface, the first bearing surface reducing a diameter of the valve mount opening.

30. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 17, wherein the seal is indirectly prestressed with respect to at least a first bearing surface via other components of the fuel injector.

31. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 17, wherein the seal is at least partially coated.

32. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 17, wherein the seal is beveled on an outside at least at one of its ends.